on packages intended for retail sale in the form "Maximum Retail Price...Inclusive of all taxes" by manufactures/packers. Government does not have information on the cost of production of commodities contained in such packages.

(b) and (c) There is no proposal under consideration to fix the price of the products with cost basis under the provisions of the Packaged Commodities Rules, Selling prices of various products, other than those covered by administered prices, are governed by market forces.

Sale of foodgrains to exporters

†925. SHRI P. K. MAHESHWARI:
SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

Will the minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had started a scheme of selling wheat and rice to exporters at market rates and subsequently refund them the difference between export price and market price;

(b) if so, whether Government have withdrawn the said scheme now;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether Government propose to restart the said scheme as this decision would adversely effect export of foodgrains; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI U.V. KRISHNAM RAJU):(a) to (e) The instruction regarding reimbursement of post-deliver expenses and other related expenses for export of foodgrains issued to FCI some time back have been kept kin abeyance for the time being in view of some problems pointed out by the exporters.

Removal of Cement from purview of Essential Commodities Act

926. SHRI P. K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to remove cement from the purview of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, whether Government had decided in the inter-ministerial meeting held in September, 2001 that it was essential to first check whether similar quality control order could be issued under some other law;

(c) if so, whether this issue has been examined by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry;

(d) if so, the details of its report thereon; and

(e) the reasons for removing the cement from the purview of ECA?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) Cement has been removed from the purview of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 by an Order dated 15.02.2002.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) The question of issuing a fresh Cement Quality Control Order either under the provisions of the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act, 1951 or the Bureau of Indian Standards Act, 1986 was examined in the Ministry of Commerce & Industry which felt that it would be more appropriate to issue the fresh Cement Quality Control Order under the provisions of Section 14 of the Bureau of Indian Standards Act, 1986. The Ministry of Law is being consulted for issue of the Order.

(e) Cement has been removed from the purview of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 as the production capacity of the cement industry has far exceeded the demand for the commodity and there is no scarcity.

BPL Families in Andhra Pradesh

927. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is difference between Central Government and the State Government of Andhra Pradesh regarding number of BPL familes in the State for providing subsidised foodgrain;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the remedical measures being taken to resolve the difference so that BPL families of the State do not suffer?